

LONE WOLF AND CUB

子狼と母狼

VOLUME 25

PERHAPS
IN DEATH

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA



子連水狼

LONE WOLF AND CUB



story
KAZUO KOIKE
art
GOSEKI KOJIMA



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PERHAPS IN DEATH

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA

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VOLUME

25

A NOTE TO READERS

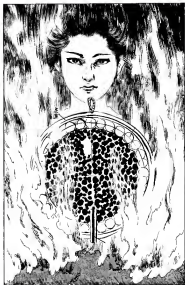
Lone Wolf and Cub is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yurushi o* (please forgive us)!

LONE WOLF AND CUB



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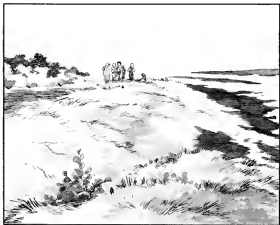
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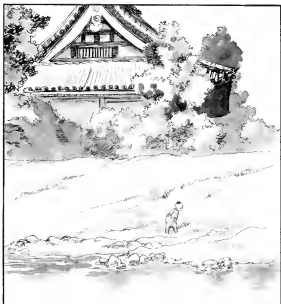
*the hundred and
twenty-second*

Perhaps in Death

















HIS EARS
ADDED HIM,
SAYING HE SHOULD
WORRY FOR HIS
HEAD.

BUT MITSURU
REPLIED, "UNTIL
I DIE, I AM A
GENERAL PROTECTS
HIS BODY."



UNDERSTAND,
DAIBOROP

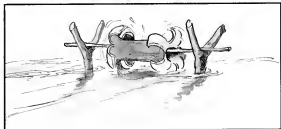
MITSURU
USED TO FIGHT
HE WATCHED FOR
A CHANCE TO HIS
LAST BREATH.

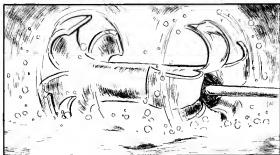


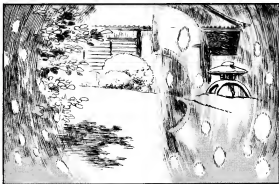
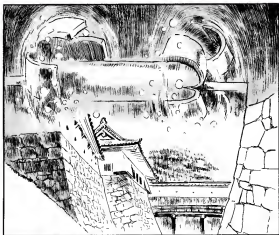
TOMORROW
IS OUR LAST
DAY

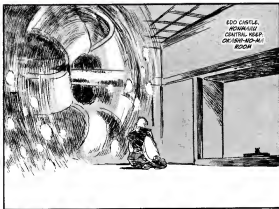
A INMENSE
WOULDN'T EAT
SOMETHING THAT
COULD MAKE
HER ILL.





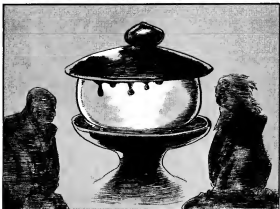




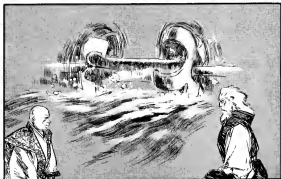
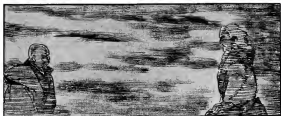
















ALAS, IN THE
ADAMANT...

...I HAVE JUST THE
DREAM-ADAMANT ROOM
FOR PARTAKING OF TEA AND
SWEETCAKES, PLUS THE ROOM
NEXT DOOR, A KITCHEN,
SAND AND FISH
ROOMS



NOT EXACTLY
YOUR STYLE,
RETSUDO-SAMA.
NOT ANNE.

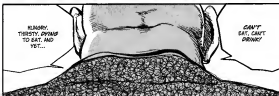


UNDER OUR
LORD SPEARS,
WE HAVE
DO



SAILING,
I KNOW,
BUT PLEASE...
PARDONANCE

















I'VE THEIR EYES
AND EARS, NOSE
AND MOUTH, ARMS
AND LEGS!

IF THE YAMU
PERISH, THE TOKUSHIMA
NO MORE. NO MORE
TO HEAR THE WARRIORS
HOUSES, THE CLASH OF
BLADES AND ROAR
OF MUSKETS.



NO MORE TO SMELL
OUT THE SECRETS OF
THE LAND. NO MORE
TO DRINK THE BLOOD OF
DWARVES.



NO
YAMU—

—NO
TOKUSHIMA!

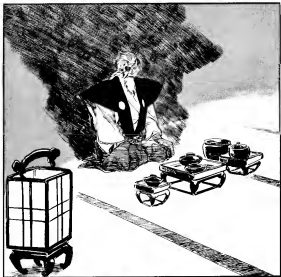
I'LL SUMMON
THE SHOGUN, KIM
OTTO, AND REBELL
THE CLAY!

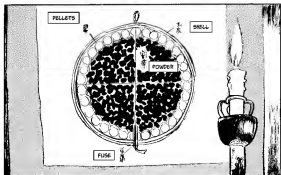








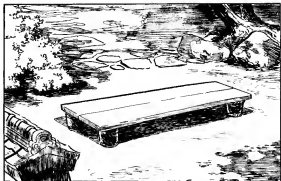


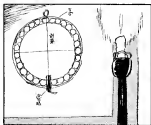


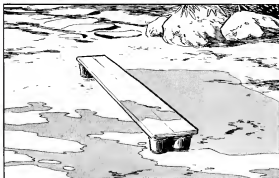
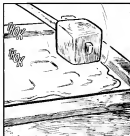








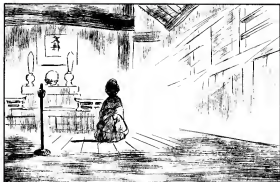




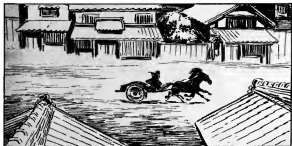










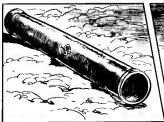
































*the hundred and
twenty-third*

**Tales
of the
Grass:
Dyamada
Shume**



CLERK KAWASO ANNA
LORD MATSUOKA
KAN-RO-KAN
SEVENTY-FIVE
THOUSAND JEDD



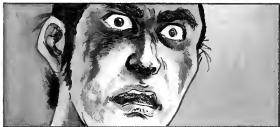
KWANSEI WAAI SPREAD
OVER THE MUNCHING
PLAIN IN THE CENTER OF
KUSASHI, THIRTEEN MI
NORTHWEST OF EDO.

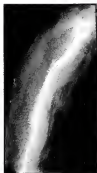


IT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN TENSHO SIXTEEN (1591),
DURING THE GREAT APPORTIONMENT OF 1585 FOLLOWING
TOKUGAWA IYASU'S RETURN TO KANTO. IT STARTED WITH
TEN THOUSAND AKOMI, BUT AS THE WAAI GLOSTED TO
THE EDO PERMAN, GENERATIONS OF ITS RULERS CAME TO
HOLD CRITICAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY POSTS IN THE
SHOGUNATE. THEY WERE AMONG THE CLOSEST OF THE
TOKUGAWA PERMAN DAWAYD, AND WERE REWARDED
ACCORDINGLY...















WADZEE...

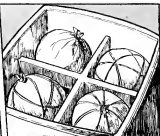


GRACEFUL
GUY











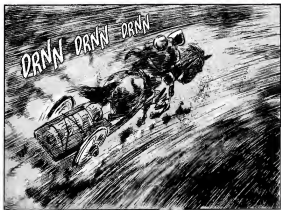










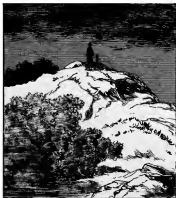












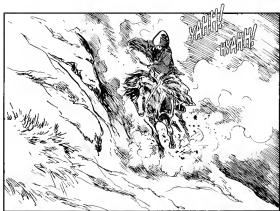






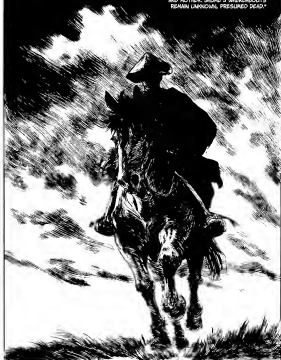






FROM THE REPORT
OF THE AMTSBOERS
OF KAWAGUCHI...

"A SUSPICIOUS FIRE IN FUKASAKI
TODAY DESTROYED THE OFFICIAL
RESIDENCE OF ANA CAVALRY
OFFICER OYANADA SHUN. TWO
BODIES RECOVERED FROM THE
RUINS ARE BELIEVED TO BE THOSE
OF OYANADA'S RETIRED FATHER
AND MOTHER. SHUN'S WHEREABOUTS
REMAIN UNKNOWN, PRESUMED DEAD."







*the hundred and
twenty-fourth*

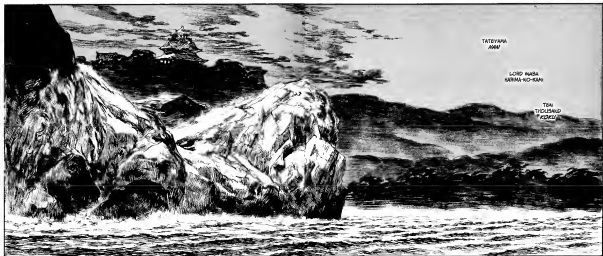
**Tales
of the
Grass:
Nakodera
Bushō**



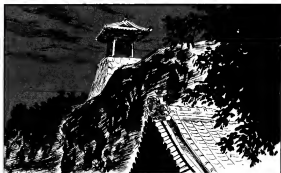
THE SHIMAZUKU ERA
MARLORD SATOMI
YOSHIYASU, LOOKING
DOWN UPON THE OCEAN
FROM HIS CASTLE
ROUNT IN TATEYAMA,
WAS MOVED TO
VERISE—

HOW GENTLE
THE WAVES
ON THIS
MORROW SEA

TATEYAMA
KAGAMI ON URA
OBIROH BAY?



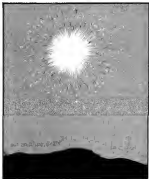
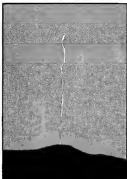


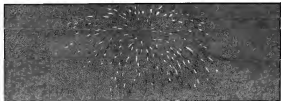
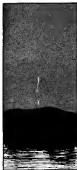


2500-40-0000
(TWO A.M.)



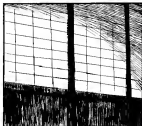






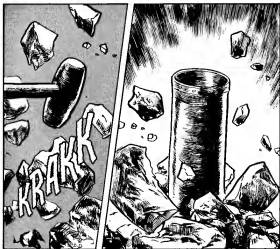


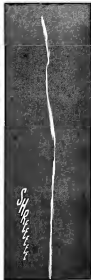






























"BUISHO OF MANDERA, A PRIEST
OF PURE PIETY, PERISHED MOST
STRANGELY YESTERDAY
CRUSHED BEYOND RECOGNITION
BY HIS OWN TEMPLE BELL."

TATEYAMA ARMY ZENSKI
BUISHO REPORT



"ADDITION AT OR NEAR THE
SAME TIME AS THE ACCIDENT,
THE TOMB OF THE SATOMI
CLAN CRUMPLED TO PIECES,
A GREAT MYSTERY."



"THE PEASANTS CLAIM IT WAS
A BATTLE BETWEEN BUISHO
WARRIORS AND THE VIOLENCEFUL
GHOSTS OF THE SATOMI
CLAN..."

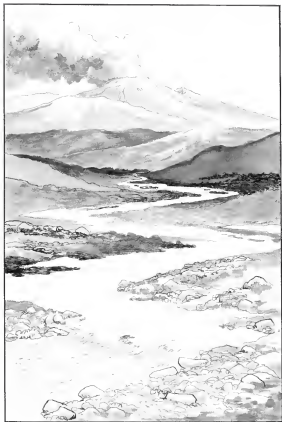




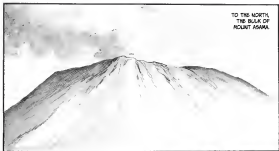
*the hundred and
twenty-fifth*

**Tales
of the
Grass:
Day Like
Any
Other**

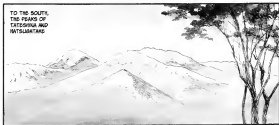




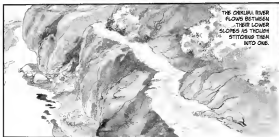
TO THE NORTH,
THE BULK OF
MOUNT ASAMA

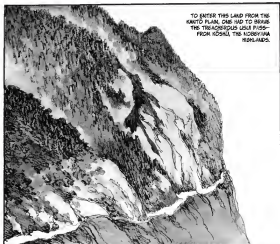


TO THE SOUTH,
THE PEAKS OF
TATEYAMA AND
NATSUGATARE

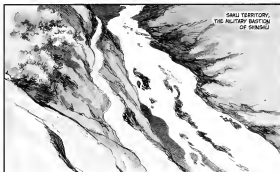


THE OKIWA RIVER
FLOWS BETWEEN
THEIR LOWER
SLOPES AS THOUGH
STITCHING THEM
INTO ONE.

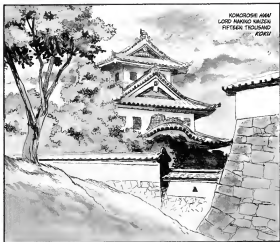




TO ENTER THE LAND FROM THE
KANTO PLAIN, ONE HAD TO CROSS
THE TREACHEROUS LOU PASS—
FROM KOSHI, THE MOUNTAIN
HIGHLANDS.



SARU TERRITORY,
THE MILITARY BASTION
OF SHIMAZU



KOROMOJI JIN
LORD HAKKO KINZOKI
FIFTEEN THOUSAND
KIMCHI













I 9884













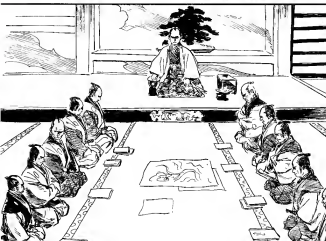
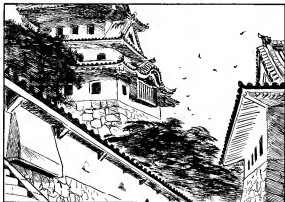
















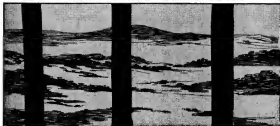










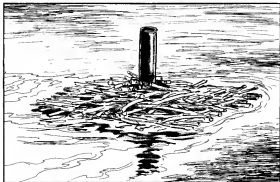
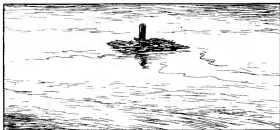




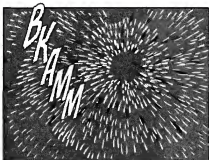










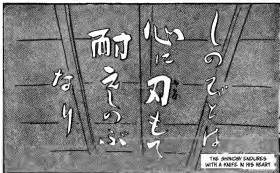






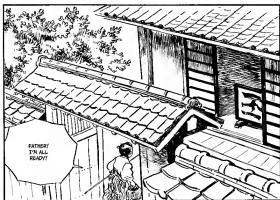








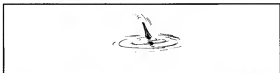




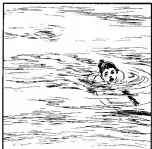
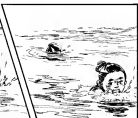


















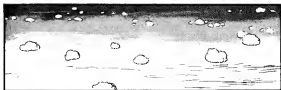


THREE DAYS LATER, BUSHO
FUTSUMARU KIKUCHI
SEARCHED THE BANKS OF
THE CHIKUMA FOR A SPOT
TO HIDE GRAVEL.





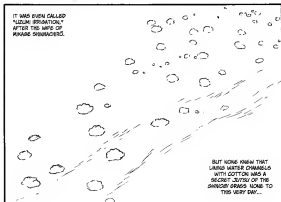




THE HISTORIES OF KOMOROKU NOW
SPEAK OF LEIANG IRRIGATION CANALS
WITH COTTON WADDINGS TO PRESENT
WATER FROM SEEPING OUT
THROUGH THE FURROWS.



IT WAS EVEN CALLED
"LEIANG IRRIGATION,"
AFTER THE WIFE OF
KIKAKU CHINAKORO.



BUT NONE KNEW THAT
LEIANG WATER CHANNELS
WITH COTTON WAS A
SECRET JOY OF THE
SHINOBU GRASS: NONE TO
THIS VERY DAY...



*the hundred and
twenty-sixth*

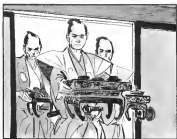
**Breakfast,
Lunch,
Snack,
and
Brunch**



















I'LL
SEE FOR
MYSELF!



SEE
THE FATHERS,
HE'S HERE!



HE'S JUST
QUICKLY GETTING
UP WHEN YOU
COME IN, I'LL
GET.

HE'S
PICKED
YOU!



PEEK...
BUT?

HE'LL BE
STRETCHED
OUT.



BUT, SIR—
NO WRINKLES IN HIS
CHAMISEAU...?

HE'S ...
PICKING
THAT, TOO!
SOMEHOW!





WH...
WHAT...?

NO
AGRE...TY



WHY PROOF HE
DIDN'T WANT US
SPYING HE FIGURED
IT OUT...



SEE?
JUST LIKE
I SAID

HE KEEPS
IT DARK SO HE
CAN SLEEP.



CAN'T SPY
WITHOUT A
LIGHT...

...BUT I CAN'T
FORCE HIM TO
KEEP THE LANTERN
IN THE ROOM.
HE'S MY GUEST,
AFTER ALL...

~~~~~















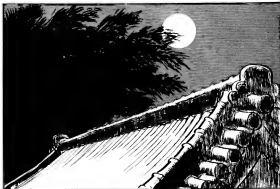






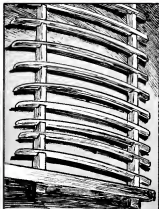




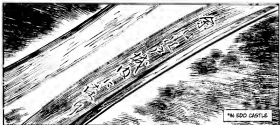
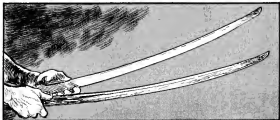




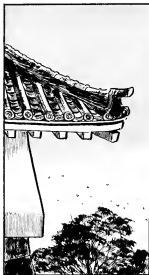






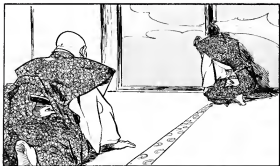


\*IN EDO CASTLE

















WHEN THE MORNING  
SUN BURNS...A  
SAMURAI'S STRENGTH  
IS AT AN END.

MY TIME DRAGS AHEAD,  
EASY TO SLEEP SITTING,  
BUT WITHOUT FOOD OR  
WATER...FOUR MORE  
HOURS...?



ONLY THREE  
DAYS...IS  
THIS AGE?  
NO...



I HADN'T FULLY  
RECOVERED FROM  
FIGHTING ITTO...



WILL  
THE GRAVE  
BE IN  
TIME?















TRUE...?

YES, SIR.  
"STRAIGHT UP,  
TOES SPREAD,  
NOT MOVING."



WHY THE  
TOES?



SIR, THE SMO  
BETWEEN THE TOES  
IS SENSITIVE. IT'S SO  
THEY CAN DETECT  
APPROACHING  
FOOTSTEPS.

ELK...  
HARES  
SENSE.



LET'S  
SEE...



GUESS  
MY KNEE'S  
HEALED.









9-  
"SHIKATSU-  
SAN"...?



A TABLET OF DRIED  
PLUM, ROCK SUGAR,  
AND BARLEY PASTE...  
PERHAPS SOME  
DRUGS



THEY  
SAY YOU  
DON'T FEEL  
THIRSTY.



I'VE ALSO  
HEARD SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT, SIR.



I HEARD IT WAS  
SHIKATSUBUSHI, A PASTE  
OF CARROTS, BUCKWHEAT,  
WHEAT, AND POTATOES...  
AND SECRET  
MEDICINES.

IT'S SOAKED  
IN SAKÉ FOR THREE  
YEARS, AND ROLLED  
INTO PILLS



JUST ONE  
COMPLETELY  
RESTORES BODY  
AND MIND



HEE HEE  
HEE...

HEE HEE  
HEE!





LIKE YOU  
SAID, HE'S A  
ARROW.

A JELLY,  
NO GOOD.

IT'S  
HOSTING A  
ARROW.



A DARK  
SHADOW.

HE'S  
HE'S  
HE'S  
HE'S



"A TORCH  
NEVER LIGHTS  
YOUR BACK."

I FORGOT  
TO LOOK  
BEHIND ME.



WHEN I DO...  
SHADOW.

THE  
ARROW IS THE  
SHADOW.







NEXT...  
HOW TO GET  
HIS HIDDEN  
BATHS!!!

THAT'S  
IT!

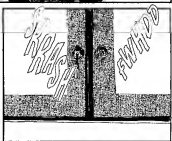


THE DAY AFTER  
TOMORROW OUR LORD  
VISITS TÔSUKUJI SHRINE.  
THEY'LL PURIFY THE CASTLE—  
EVERYONE MUST HAVE  
A RITUAL BATH!

NOTHING'S  
NO EXCEPTION!  
SEARCH HIS CLOTHES  
UNLESS HE  
BATHES!



GO NOW!!











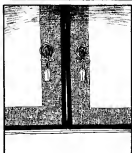
















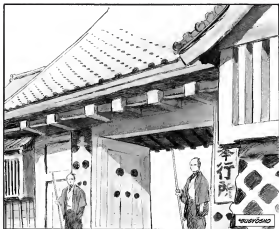




*the hundred and  
twenty-seventh*

# By His Own Hand











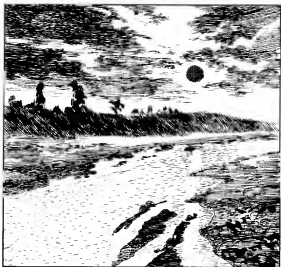














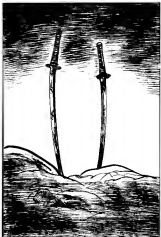


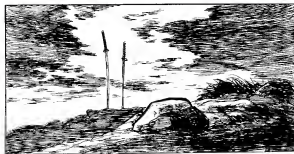






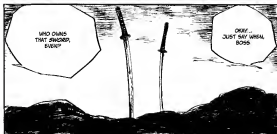


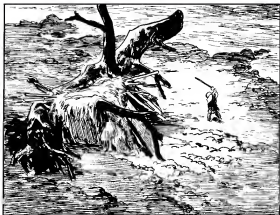














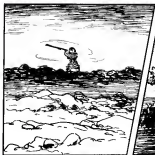
























「来待」



WHAT?!



A HUNDRED  
COMFORTS BY  
THE MATCHA??

WE  
EXHIBITED  
ONE, SIR.











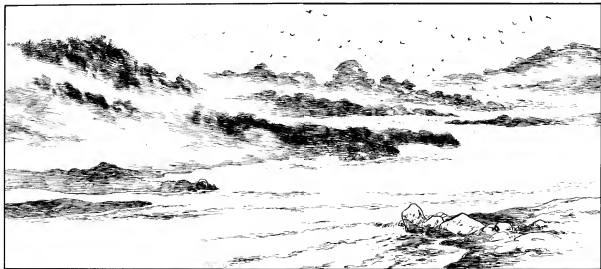


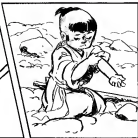




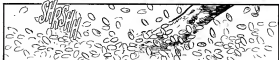




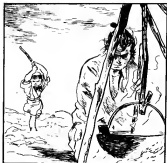


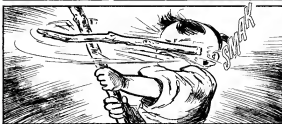












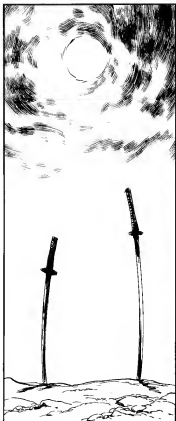






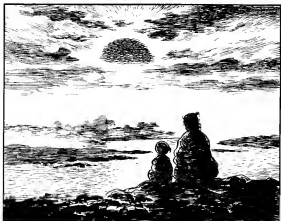














HERE--  
THIS RICE  
WILL LAST  
TEN DAYS.



TOMORROW'S THE  
NEW YEAR'S FESTIVAL.  
IT'S THE GREATEST OF ALL  
OBSERVED BY THE SHOGUN  
FAMILY. THE PARADE ENTERS  
800 CASTLE.



I WILL  
GO IN WITH  
THEM.

I NEED TO FIND  
YASUO RITSUDO. IF  
HE'S ALIVE, I'LL  
BRING HIM OUT.



SEVEN DAYS  
SINCE OUR  
PLEDGE.



SEVEN DAYS  
SINCE HE SAID  
HE'D HONOR IT  
IN DEATH.

IT WAS  
WARRIOR ETIQUETTE  
TO TELL US, AND WE COULD  
SIMPLY SIT AND WAIT. YET ONE  
HONOR DEMANDS ANOTHER,  
EVEN IF HE IS OUR  
MORTAL ENEMY.



LONG WOLF AND DUB BOOK TWENTY FIVE: THE END  
TO BE CONTINUED

# GLOSSARY

## **bugyo**

A position combining the post of mayor and chief of police for a town, in charge of administration, maintaining the peace, and enforcing the law. Rule was extended only to commoners.

## **bugyosho**

The office of the *bugyo*.

## **bushi**

A samurai. A member of the warrior class.

## **bushū**

Another term for Musashū, the area encompassing most of the Kantō Plain around modern-day Tokyo.

## **daimyō**

A feudal lord.

## **Edo**

Edo was a castle town, that rose up around the moats and ramparts of Edo castle, the stronghold of

the Tokugawa clan. The central core of the city, administered by the *machi-bugyō* city commissioner, who reported directly to the shōgun's senior councilors, and was demarcated on official maps by a black line, the *karobiki*, and was called the *go-funai*.

## **Fudai daimyō**

The inner circle of clans pledging allegiance to the Tokugawa. The *fudai* clans were Tokugawa allies even before Tokugawa Ieyasu's decisive victory of Sekigahara that launched the Tokugawa shogunate.

## **funai**

The central core of Edo (see Edo).

## **go-yō**

Official business. As a lantern carried by the officers of the *daikoku* magistrate, the equivalent of today's national police, or as the shout of the

police apprehending a criminal. “*go-yō*” was one of the most dreaded words in the world of Edo Japan’s criminal elements.

**haizen-shū**

Servers for high officials.

**han**

A feudal domain.

**hanshi**

Samurai in the service of a *han*.

**Hachiman**

A widely worshipped folk deity of war.

**honorifics**

Japan is a class and status society, and proper forms of address are critical. Common markers of respect are the prefixes *o* and *go*, and a wide range of suffixes. Some of the suffixes you will encounter in *Love Wolf and Cub*:

*dono* – archaic; used for higher-ranked or highly respected figures.

*san* – the most common, used among equals or near-equals.

*sama* – used for superiors.

*sensei* – used for teachers, masters, respected entertainers, and politicians.

**jisha bugyō**

Magistrate in charge of religious affairs.

**jōjin**

A ninja leader.

**jutsu**

A martial arts skill, especially the techniques of the ninja.

**kamishimo**

Ceremonial outer garments.

**kan**

6 *shaku*, approximately 1.8 meters.

**Kannon**

Buddhist goddess of mercy.

**kendo**

The Japanese art of fencing with bamboo sticks.

**koku**

A bale of rice. The traditional measure of a *han*’s wealth, a measure of its agricultural land and productivity.

**machikata**

Town policemen.

### **measurements**

*bu* – approximately 3 millimeters.

*sun* – approximately 3 centimeters.

*shaku* – ten sun, approximately 30 centimeters.

*ri* – approximately 4 kilometers (2.5 miles).

### **metsuke**

Inspector. A post combining the functions of chief of police and chief intelligence officer.

### **nama**

From the Sanskrit *namah*: “take refuge in the Buddha.” A common prayer for the dead.

### **noroshi**

Emergency signals in times of crisis, either fires or fireworks-like flares.

### **shihai**

Master.

### **shinobi**

A generic term for *ninja*, meaning “one who moves in secrecy.” *Ninja* had their heyday in the time of warring states before the rise of the Tokugawa clan. Originally mercenaries

serving different warlords, by the Edo period they were in the service of the central government. The most famous *shinobi* were the *ninja* of Iga and Kaga, north of Kyoto. The *Kurokuwa ninja* that appear in *Low Wolf and Cub* were officially the laborers and manual workers in Edo Castle. Whether they truly served as a secret spy corps is lost in history.

### **shisan**

“Perhaps in death”  
(see vol. 24)

### **tatami**

A thick mat woven of rice stalks, used as flooring.

### **Tōshūgū**

Tokugawa Ieyasu.

### **tozama daimyō**

Less trusted *daimyō* of the outer circle. The *han* in Saikoku (western Japan) were particularly restive.

### **wajo**

A term of respect for a high priest or the head of a temple.

# GOSEKI KOJIMA

Goseki Kojima was born on November 3, 1928, the very same day as the godfather of Japanese comics, Osamu Tezuka. While just out of junior high school, the self-taught Kojima began painting advertising posters for movie theaters to pay his bills.

In 1950, Kojima moved to Tokyo, where the postwar devastation had given rise to special manga forms for audiences too poor to buy the new manga magazines. Kojima created art for *kami-akibai*, or “paper-play” narrators, who would use manga story sheets to present narrated street plays. Kojima moved on to creating works for the *kashi-hoe* market, bookstores that rented out books, magazines, and manga to mostly low-income readers. He soon became highly popular among *kashi-hoe* readers.

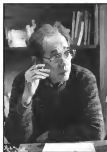
In 1967, Kojima broke into the magazine market with his series *Dofinki*. As the manga magazine market grew and diversified, he turned out a steady stream of popular series.

In 1970, in collaboration with Kazuo Koike, Kojima began the work that would seal his reputation, *Score*

*Okami* (*Less Wolf and Cub*). Before long the story had become a gigantic hit, eventually spinning off a television series, six motion pictures, and even theme song records. Koike and Kojima were soon dubbed the “golden duo” and produced success after success on their way to the pinnacle of the manga world.

When *Manga Japan* magazine was launched in 1994, Kojima was asked to serve as consultant, and he helped train the next generation of manga artists.

In his final years, Kojima turned to creating original graphic novels based on the movies of his favorite director, Akira Kurosawa. Kojima passed away on January 5, 2000 at the age of 71.





# KAZUO KOIKE

Though widely respected as a powerful writer of graphic fiction, Kazuo Koike has spent a lifetime reaching beyond the bounds of the comics medium. Aside from co-creating and writing the successful *Love Wolf and Cub* and *Crying Freeman* manga, Koike has hosted television programs; founded a golf magazine; produced movies; written popular fiction, poetry, and screenplays; and mentored some of Japan's best manga talents.

*Love Wolf and Cub* was first serialized in Japan in 1970 (under the title *Kazure Okami*) in *Manga Action* magazine and continued its hugely popular run for many years, being collected as the stories were published, and republished worldwide. Koike collected numerous awards for his work on the series throughout the next decade. Starting in 1972, Koike adapted the popular manga into a series of six films, the *Baby Cart Annihilation* saga, garnering widespread commercial success and critical acclaim for his screenwriting.

This wasn't Koike's only foray into film and video. In 1996, *Crying Freeman*, the manga Koike created with artist Ryoichi Ikegami, was

produced in Hollywood and released to commercial success in Europe and is currently awaiting release in America.

And to give something back to the medium that gave him so much, Koike started the *Gekiga Senjuku*, a college course aimed at helping talented writers and artists — such as *Ranma 1/2* creator Rumiko Takahashi — break into the comics field.

The driving focus of Koike's narrative is character development, and his commitment to character is clear: "Comics are carried by characters. If a character is well created, the comic becomes a hit." Kazuo Koike's continued success in comics and literature has proven this philosophy true.





The mortal enemy of our *ronin* hero, Retsudo Yagyu has been imprisoned in Edo castle by the shogun. It seems the conniving poisoner, Abeno Kaiti, has exposed the Yagyu letter! And the warden is none other than the poisoner himself, determined to feed Retsudo the dose that will end his life in a pit of dishonor. But Yagyu has spies even in Edo castle, and a message is sent to his "grass," members of the clan hiding in secret, living as normal townspeople throughout Japan. It is up to them to give their lives in this final hour of desperate need. Meanwhile, Ito Oigami is living in a shack and training his little boy for the day when he must protect the battlefield with his own little hands. Still, two swords remain in this field of death, awaiting the two hands that will draw them from the soil and bring us closer to the end of our tale.

*"There's a maturity found in Lone Wolf and Cub rarely found in American comics. . . This is a Kurosawa film with sex, drugs, corruption, warlike acts of violence, — and a really cute kid."*

■ EISNER AWARD WINNER  
■ HARVEY AWARD WINNER

— Marc Bernardin  
Entertainment Weekly

GRAPHIC NOVEL / MANGA



子連水狼

Front cover artwork by  
MATT WAGNER